

*A SELECTIVE, ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY ON  
THE NORTH KOREAN MILITARY*

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*January 1987*

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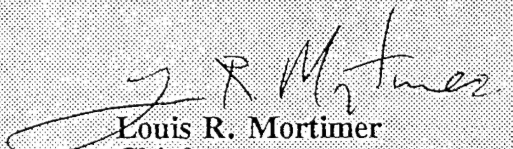
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## PREFACE

This bibliography provides selective annotations of open-source material and covers the following topics:

- modernization of the North Korean Army,
- North Korean Army strategy and tactics in the Korean War, and
- North Korean Army strategy and tactics since the Korean War.

The bibliography incorporates serials and monographs received in the previous month and is part of a continuing series on the above subjects.

Entries are arranged alphabetically by author or title. Library of Congress call numbers, where appropriate, are included to facilitate the recovery of works cited.

## GLOSSARY

CPLA	Chinese People's Liberation Army
CFC	Combined Forces Command (US and ROK)
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea)
NKA	North Korean Army
NKAF	North Korean Air Force
NKN	North Korean Navy
KPA	Korean People's Army (Comprises NKA, NKAF, and NKN)
KWP	Korean Workers' Party
ROK	Republic of Korea (South Korea)
ROKA	Republic of Korea Army
ROKAF	Republic of Korea Air Force
ROKN	Republic of Korea Navy

# 1. MODERNIZATION OF THE NORTH KOREAN MILITARY

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"Analysis of Past, Speculation on future USSR-DPRK Relations."  
Tonga Ilbo (Seoul), 15 October 1986, p. 4. In  
JPRS-KAR-86-055, 5 December 1986, pp. 1-2.

South Korean analysts speculate on the reasons for North Korean President Kim Il-song's October 1986 visit to the Soviet Union. Most agree that Kim will continue to press the Soviets to provide more sophisticated weaponry to boost the DPRK's military modernization program. Another reason is thought to be Kim's desire to solidify Soviet support for his plan to have his son, Kim Chong-il, become the next leader of North Korea. Finally, some say that Kim Il-song is visiting Moscow for the second time in three years because he is concerned about Beijing's current political course which is seen as being more favorable to Washington, Tokyo, and Seoul than Pyongyang. It is not anticipated that there will be any major changes in the political and military relationships of the two countries as a result of Kim's visit to Moscow.

Kihl, Young Whan and Grinter, Lawrence E. Asian-Pacific Security: Emerging Challenges and Responses. Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers, Inc., 1986. xiv. 282 pp.  
UA830.A84

Chapter 7, written by Young Whan Kihl, discusses the military buildup on the Korean Peninsula and the current military balance involving the two Koreas and their two major allies, the United States and the Soviet Union. North Korea is said to have 784,000 personnel under arms compared to South Korea's 622,000. The author believes that Pyongyang continues to spend one fifth of its GNP on defense because its leaders have developed a siege mentality. Kihl sees no end to the current arms race, however he emphasizes that North Korea is unlikely to ever obtain parity with the South economically. He predicts that North Korea will follow China's example and open its doors to the West. Diplomatically, North Korea will work for the withdrawal of US Forces from the ROK while it strengthens its own defense relations with the Soviet Union. The author does not believe that either Seoul or Pyongyang wants to start a war. Whether the two Koreas become more cooperative or the status quo is maintained will depend on how each deals with a number of short term

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political issues. Pyongyang must improve its stagnant economy and solve the succession issue. Seoul must also meet the challenge of arranging a peaceful transition of power and faces the additional task of resolving several problems in its bilateral relations with the United States.

"North Korea Seeks Increased Military Ties with the USSR."  
Korea Herald (Seoul), 4 December 1986, p. 3.

A visit to North Korea by a Soviet military delegation led by General Aleksei Lizichev, director of the Army's General Political Bureau, is viewed as a sign of improvement in Soviet-North Korean relations. The report by the Reuter news agency says that NKPA Chief of Staff O Kuk-yol called for an expansion of the cooperative relations between the "peoples and armies" of the two nations during a reception for Lizichev. It is also reported that the whereabouts of North Korean Minister of the People's Armed Forces O Chin-u remains unknown. O has not been seen in public for several months.

"PRC View on Peaceful Unification of Korean Peninsula." Hankuk Ilbo (Seoul), 26 November 1986. In Press Translations (US Embassy, Seoul), 26 November 1986, pp. 1-2.

Chinese scholars who participated in an international symposium held in Tokyo from 24-27 November reportedly said they expect the arms race on the Korean Peninsula to continue for the foreseeable future because of the mutual distrust that exists between Pyongyang and Seoul, and due to the "intervention" of the superpowers in the internal affairs of the two Koreas. The 3-day conference, sponsored by Kyongnam University of South Korea, was attended by 50 scholars from the United States, South Korea, Japan, and the People's Republic of China.



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"What Kim Il-song Acquired in the Soviet Union." Chungang Ilbo  
(Seoul), 27 October 1986, p. 2. In JPRS-KAR-86-55, 5  
December 1986, pp. 6-7.

It is argued in this editorial that continued Soviet military aid to North Korea will upset the military balance on the Korean Peninsula in the North's favor. The article points to Soviet delivery of 40 MiG-23/FLOGGER fighter aircraft, Soviet reconnaissance flights over North Korea using TU-95/BEAR aircraft, Kim Il-song's October 1986 visit to the Soviet Union and his invitation for Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to visit Pyongyang as indications that Soviet-North Korean relations are improving. According to this editorial, the current levels of ROK military cooperation with the United States, along with current Japanese and Chinese and political policies designed to keep the peace on the Korean Peninsula, will not be enough to ensure that Seoul matches Pyongyang's continual modernization of the NKPA.

## 2. NORTH KOREAN ARMY STRATEGY AND TACTICS IN THE KOREAN WAR

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Park, Hong-kyu. "Korean War Literature: A Selected Bibliographic Note." Korea Observer (Seoul), Vol. 17, No. 1, Spring 1986, pp. 62-71. DS901.K717

This bibliography lists a number of books, magazine articles, and government publications devoted to the Korean War which have been published in the last twenty years. The sources are organized into 5 subject categories: causes of the war, American policymaking during the war, reasons for China's entry into the war, analyses of the Truman-MacArthur controversy, and discussions of the peace negotiations.

Stewart, James T. Airpower: The Decisive Force in Korea. Princeton: D. Van Nostrand Co, Inc., 1957. 310 pp. DS920.A258

This book, published four years after the Korean War ended, claims that North Korea had already corrected a major strategic error by enhancing the strength of the NKAf. Reportedly, by the summer of 1956 North Korea had achieved a 3-to-1 advantage in combat aircraft over the ROKAF and UN Forces in Korea. Stewart believes that if North Korea had established a credible air force before attacking South Korea in June 1950, the United States Air Force would have had difficulty protecting logistics and communication assets of the allies with the aircraft available in Japan and nearby countries at that time. NKA strategy and tactics and the extent of enemy losses attributable to strikes by units of the United States Air Force are discussed in great detail.

### 3. NORTH KOREAN ARMY STRATEGY AND TACTICS SINCE THE KOREAN WAR

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"China Proposes Seoul-Peking, North Korea-Western Nations Ties " Korea Herald (Seoul). 6 December 1986, p. 1.

The younger generation of North Korean military leaders are said to favor closer ties with the Soviet Union. Kim Chong-il, son and heir apparent once Kim Il-song leaves the scene, and his followers, including NKPA Chief of Staff O Kuk-yol, are believed to view the Soviet Union as a dependable source of military aid. According to this article, Kim Chong-il is "full of contempt for the Chinese" because of that country's pro-Western policies. Pyongyang is said to have turned down a cross recognition proposal suggested by Chinese President Li Xiannian during his October 1986 visit to the North Korean capital. Washington and Tokyo would recognize Pyongyang while Beijing and Moscow would recognize Seoul as part of this proposal. Pyongyang has opposed cross recognition several times in the past because it says such an arrangement would promote the permanent division of the Korean Peninsula.

"Close Military Cooperation Between North Korea and Soviet Union Being Watched Carefully." Choson Ilbo (Seoul), 6 November 1986. In Press Translations (US Embassy, Seoul), 6 November 1986, p. 1.

It is reported that Admiral James Lyons, Commander of the US Pacific Fleet, told the press on 5 November that the US is monitoring offensive Soviet maneuvers in Korea. Lyons said that Soviet bombers flying over North Korea and the Yellow Sea have been conducting "mock exercises" attacking various points along the flight route. The South Korean daily notes that Admiral Lyons and a contingent of 3 US warships are currently visiting the Chinese port of Qingdao.

"Defense Minister Lee Warns '87 Most Vulnerable Year." Korea Herald (Seoul), 28 November 1986, p. 1.

South Korean military commanders met at the Ministry of Defense on 27 November to discuss the ROKA's strategies for maintaining high levels of defense preparedness and

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repulsing a North Korean attack, if it comes next year. South Korean Minister of Defense Lee Ki-baek announced after the meeting that he expects North Korea to attempt to infiltrate armed agents in the summer of 1987. Lee said that South Korea has worked out a strategy to counter an all-out North Korean invasion of the South. According to South Korean intelligence, North Korea has made plans to invade South Korea and win a war in five-to-seven days.

Kim Yun-kon. "Assassination of Kim Il-song Rumored in Tokyo." Choson Ilbo (Seoul), 16 November 1986. In Press Translations (US Embassy, Seoul), 17 November 1986, pp. 2-3.

Choson Ilbo reported that diplomatic sources in Japan were saying that Kim Il-song may have been the target of more than one assassination plot in the last two months. According to these reports, unnamed members of a military faction opposed to Kim Il-song attempted a coup in late September or early October and fled to China when the coup failed. The article reported that members of the same faction who remained in North Korea probably were responsible for a second assassination attempt on Kim on or about 15 November. It is speculated that if reports of Kim's death prove to be false, some other high level North Korean official may have been killed.

McBeth, John. "Reappearing Trick." Far Eastern Economic Review. Vol. 134, No. 49, 4 December 1986, pp. 40-41. HC411.F18

McBeth suggests that false reporting that Kim Il-song was assassinated on 16 November 1986 probably do not provide indications that a power struggle is underway in Pyongyang. The author believes that Kim's reappearance at an airport reception for Mongolian President Jambyn Batmonh on 18 November could not have gone as smoothly as it did if the life of the North Korean President had been threatened only two days earlier. The hypothesis that Pyongyang perpetuated a hoax and Seoul fell for it is considered to be the most likely explanation for the incident.

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"Numbers of North Korean Soldiers Killed in Clash in Frontline Area." Tonga Ilbo (Seoul), 19 November 1986. In Press Translations (US Embassy, Seoul), 20 November 1986, pp. 1-2.

Unnamed diplomatic sources in Seoul reported on 19 November that there have been "armed clashes" in NKA units located along the DMZ and that these clashes have resulted in the death of "tens of North Korean soldiers." It is speculated that NKA units loyal to Kim Il-song may have attacked the units responsible for loudspeaker broadcasts which made false announcements that the North Korean President had been assassinated.

"Odd Behaviors of Strange Regime." Tonga Ilbo (Seoul), 19 November. In Press Translations (Seoul), 19 November 1986, pp. 2-3.

This article claims that the South Korean Government should concern itself less with false reports of Kim Il-song's death and focus more on the task of preserving national security. It is pointed out that whoever controls North Korea and the NKA will probably continue the hostile policies which have been in place for over 30 years. The article notes three possible reasons for the North Korean DMZ loudspeaker broadcasts which encouraged speculation in South Korea that Kim Il-song had been assassinated. These broadcasts may be an indication of a power struggle in Pyongyang. They may have been part of a North Korean psychological warfare operation. Or they may have been intended to gain information on how South Korea and the West will react when Kim Il-song does die.

Sneider, Daniel. "US Navy's Pacific Fleet Chief Gives Sweeping View of his Region." Christian Science Monitor (Boston), 11 December 1986, p. 24.

Admiral James Lyons Jr., Commander of the US Pacific Fleet, criticized the Soviet Union for pursuing "aggressive tactics" throughout the western Pacific, including Korea. Lyons told reporters in Tokyo that if the United States loses its military bases in the Philippines,

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the Soviet Union would become the dominant military power in the region because of its base at Cam Ranh Bay in Vietnam. He criticized the South Pacific nation of Vanuatu for establishing close ties with the Soviet Union and said that the Soviets are prepared to take advantage of the "economic needs" of Vanuatu and other small island nations. Lyons cautioned Moscow not to use its military relationship with North Korea as an excuse for escalating tension in the region. Daniel Sneider, the reporter who wrote the article, noted that many defense analysts believe that the Soviets are not interested in promoting North Korean adventurism.

The Soviet Union and the Security of East Asia. International Seminar Series, No. 10. New York: CAUSA Publications, 1985. 114 pp. Not in LC.

This book is a compilation of papers presented at an international conference held in Seoul from 21 to 25 May 1985. More than 150 military officers and national security experts from 25 countries attended the conference. Papers delivered by Rear Admiral James W. Nance, US Navy Retired, and Professor William Kintner of the University of Pennsylvania include assessments of North Korea's military relations with the Soviet Union. Nance believes that there is a link between Pyongyang's capability to produce its own weapons and Soviet distrust of the Kim Il-song regime. The Soviets are said to fear that North Korea might attack the South without their approval. Kintner makes a similar point saying that the NKPA's superiority over the ROK Armed Forces in every category of military force gives Pyongyang the capability of invading South Korea without prior consultation with Moscow and Beijing. Nance and Kintner agree that North Korea is unlikely to bow to the Soviet line to the degree of Cuba and Vietnam as long as Kim Il-song is in power.

"Troubles in North Korea." Choson Ilbo (Seoul), 19 November 1986. In Press Translations (Us Embassy, Seoul) 19 November 1986, pp. 2-3.



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An editorial in the influential South Korean daily argues that North Korean loudspeaker broadcasts across the DMZ which made false reports that Kim Il-song had been deposed and killed in a military coup indicate that Kim no longer has total control over the NKPA. The article does not speculate on how severe a problem exists in North Korea. However, it maintains that South Korea could be the target of renewed violence if one of the factions contending for power in the North uses an attack on the South to promote its power base. The editorial cautions that political events in Pyongyang must be watched closely for clues to the future course of its foreign policy.